

VZCZCXRO1385

PP RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #1643 2420538

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 290538Z AUG 08

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9932

RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA

INFO RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEAWJB/DOJ WASHDC

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 7817

UNCLAS JAKARTA 001643

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP/MTS, G/AIAG, L/DL, EAP/EX, AND OES/IHA
USAID FOR ANE/CLEMENTS AND GH/CARROLL

DEPT ALSO PASS TO HHS/WSTEIGER/MSTLOUIS AND HHS/NIH

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DOJ for OFL

GENEVA FOR WHO/HOHMAN

USDA/FAS/OSTA BRANT, ROSENBLUM

USDA/APHIS ANNELLI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [EAGR](#) [AMGT](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#) [KLIG](#)

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA: WHO WITHHOLDING INDONESIAN AVIAN INFLUENZA INFORMATION

¶1. (U) This message is sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

¶2. (SBU) According to WHO resident representative Dr. Subhash Salunke, Indonesia is reporting possible outbreaks of avian influenza to the WHO within 24 hours in compliance with the International Health Regulations. Salunke confirmed to the Embassy that the WHO does not make public Indonesian avian influenza cases until the Ministry of Health announces them (roughly on a monthly basis).

¶3. (SBU) When asked whether this delay in public announcement of cases lessened the ability of the world community to monitor potential outbreaks of avian influenza, Salunke said that the WHO studies the information provided by Indonesia carefully. He added that if the WHO thought there were an international public health risk, it would make a public announcement with or without Indonesia's permission. Salunke said that he was not pushing the Ministry of Health to allow it to make public cases immediately, noting that the WHO had already convinced Indonesia to announce its cases on a monthly rather than quarterly basis.

HUME